

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application, of which claim 1 is independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The examiner has objected to the drawings. The applicant has amended Fig. 5.

Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claims 5-8 and 13. In response, Applicants amend claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 13 and cancel claim 13. In addition, Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claim 5. In response, Applicants added new claim 19 to include the limitations of claims 1, 4, and 5. In addition, Applicants acknowledge the allowability of claim 7. In response, Applicants added new claim 21 to include the limitations of claims 1 and 7.

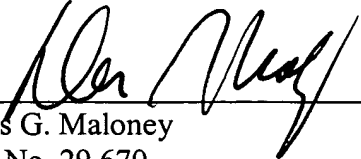
For at least the same reasons, applicant submits independent claims 1, 19, and 21 should be allowed, applicant submits that dependent claims 2-4, 9-11, 13-18, 20, and 22 should be allowed.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

6/6/01



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Amendments to the Drawings:

Please substitute the enclosed replacement sheets of formal drawings for the drawings presently in the application. The attached replacement sheets of formal drawings include changes to Fig. 5C as indicated in the annotated sheet of drawings that includes Fig. 5C.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (18 pages)
Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (1 page)

